

## Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 USSS-00 SCCT-01

A-01 /076 W

----- 100728

O R 181016Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2497

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: OWAMBO CHIEF MINISTER ASSASSINATED

1. CHIEF FILEMON ELIFAS, CHIEF MINISTER OF OWAMBO DIED IN HOSPITAL AUGUST 17 FROM GUNSHOT WOUNDS RECEIVED DURING ATTACK PREVIOUS EVENING BY UNKNOWN ASSASSINS. FOLLOWING DEATH, OWAMBO CABINET MET AND CHOSE MINISTER OF EDUCATION PASTOR CORNELIUS NDJOBA AS ACTING CHIEF MINISTER UNTIL OWAMBO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEETS TO ELECT NEW LEADER.

2. PASTOR NDJOBA ISSUED STATEMENT SAYING "SUPPORTERS OF ANARCHY" IN SWA WOULD BE ELIMINATED AND THOSE WHO WANTED

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TO SUBVERT GOVERNMENT WOULD BE SUMMARILY ARRESTED. COM-

MISSIONER GENERAL FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF SWA, MR. JAN DE WET SAID, "CHIEF ELIFAS HAS BEEN THREATENED WITH DEATH CONTINUALLY BY SWAPO", WHICH THEREFORE WAS ONE OF PRIME SUSPECTS OF INVESTIGATION. SA MINISTER OF POLICE JIMMY KRUGER SAID NO EFFORT WOULD BE SPARED TO SOLVE MURDER.

3. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER, WHO IS VISITING SOUTH AMERICA, ISSUED STATEMENT IN MONTEVIDEO, STATING THAT IF INVESTIGATION SHOWED "THAT THE ASSASSINATION IS THE WORK OF AN UNDERMINING ORGANIZATION, AND THAT ITS AIM WAS TO WRECK THE FORTHCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS, ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM, WHOEVER THEY ARE AND REGARDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES." SOUTH AFRICAN AND SWA OFFICIALS HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT SITUATION IN OWAMBO UNDER CONTROL AND ASSASSINATION WILL NOT DELAY CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN WINDHOEK SEPTEMBER 1.

4. JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT SWAPO CHAIRMAN DAVID MERORO SAID SWAPO NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ELIFAS' MURDER AND HAD NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH IT. HE TOLD PAPER SWAPO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO DISCUSS MATTER AND SITUATION IN OWAMBO.

5. COMMENT: ASSASSINATION OF ELIFAS UNLIKELY TO HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON POSITION OF OWAMBO GOVERNMENT IN CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS, OTHER THAN HARDENING ATTITUDE TOWARDS SWAPO. ACTING CHIEF MINISTER NDJOBA, MOST INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF CABINET AND FORMERLY MAIN ADVISOR TO ELIFAS, IS STRONG SUPPORTER OF SAG POLICIES IN NAMIBIA. IF NDJOBA NOT CONFIRMED AS CHIEF MINISTER BY OWAMBO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, MOST LIKELY ALTERNATIVE IS OWAMBO MINISTER OF JUSTICE TITUS HEITA, WHO HAS BEEN EQUALLY SUPPORTIVE OF THESE POLICIES.  
BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ASSASSINATION, DEATHS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NAMIBIA: OWAMBO CHIEF MINISTER ASSASSINATED  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, WA, (ELIFAS, FILEMON)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006